

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINAI 01683 111654Z

64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 075977

R 111545Z SEP 76
FM USMISSION SINAI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 989
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINAI 1683

EXDIS

FOR SSM FOR KONTOS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, UN
SUBJECT: BEDOUINS IN THE BUFFER ZONE

REF: A. STATE 218730, B. MAP EDITION 3 DMATC: SERIES P677N
1:100,000.

1. THE HEMINGWAY LINE APPEARS TO LIE TOO FAR SOUTH TO CORRESPOND TO A ROMANI-BELOUZA LINE. THE FORMER BEGINS ON THE WEST ON THE BANK OF THE SUEZ CANAL JUST SOUTH OF QANTERA AT 74109020. IT ANGLES S.E. ABOUT 2 KMS TO THE EAST-WEST ROAD AT 74189004 AND THEN FOLLOWS THIS ROAD EASTWARD TO ITS JUNCTION WITH THE BELOUZA-TASA ROAD AT 77019027 AND THENCE CONTINUES DIRECTLY EASTWARD TO THE J-LINE AT 79539027. (ALL COORDINATES EGYPT RED BELT GRID, HELMERT SPHEROID.)

2. OUR COMMENTS ON QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 7 REFTEL:

A. WHEN UNEF ENCOUNTERS BEDOUINS IN AREAS OF THE BUFFER ZONE SOUTH OF THE HEMINGWAY LINE THE UNEF OFFERS THEM A CHOICE OF WHICH LINE THEY WISH TO BE ESCORTED ACROSS: THE E-LINE, THE J-LINE, OR THE HEMINGWAY LINE. THE BEDOUINS REFERRED TO IN SINAI'S 1455, THOUGH THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE ENTERED THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SINAI 01683 111654Z

BUFFER ZONE FROM ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORY, REQUESTED TO

BE TAKEN TO EGYPTIAN TERRITORY ACROSS FROM SUEZ.

B. THE BEDOUIN POPULATION OF THE BUFFER ZONE HAS REMAINED GENERALLY CONSTANT SINCE MARCH 1976 AT AN ESTIMATED 7,000 TO 8,000 AUTHORIZED "PERMANENT" RESIDENTS. THIS NUMBER, HOWEVER, IS AUGMENTED BY VISITORS, LEGALLY ADMITTED THROUGH UNEF CHECKPOINTS FOR STAYS OF VARYING DURATIONS. DURING AUGUST, SOME 5,000 TO 6,000 TEMPORARY VISITORS WERE ADMITTED ACROSS THE E-LINE: SOME 500 TO 600 ACROSS THE J-LINE. IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR UNEF TO ACCOUNT FOR ALL DEPARTURES. EACH MONTH THERE IS IN THIS MANNER PROBABLY A SLIGHT ACCRETION TO THE RESIDENT POPULATION.

C. THE GOE SPECIFIED IN THE SEPTEMBER 23, 1975 LETTER SUBMITTED BY GENERAL MAGDOUB TO GENERAL SIILASVUO AT GENEVA THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER FOR GOE CIVILIAN SERVICES TO THE BEDOUIN POPULATION OF THE INTRA-BUFFER ZONE MEDITERRANEAN LITTORAL WOULD BE LOCATED AT QANTARA. OVER THE MONTHS SINCE FEBRUARY 1976, HOWEVER, THE LOCUS OF THE GOE PRESENCE HAS SHIFTED EASTWARD INTO THE BUFFER ZONE PROPER AND IS, DE FACTO, HEADQUARTERED NOW AT ROMANI, WHERE A "RETIRED" POLICE BRIGADIER HEADS THE GOE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT AND A FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY 100 POLICE MANNING FOUR ADDITIONAL CONTROL POINTS LOCATED OUTSIDE ROMANI AT BELOUZA, KHIRBA, RABAE, AND KATIA. THE EGYPTIANS ARE STEADILY SEEKING TO ENHANCE THEIR AUTHORITY OVER THE BEDOUINS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE UNEF AND ARE EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THEIR CIVIL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS, CLINICS, ETC. IT WAS AS A RESULT OF GOE PRESSURE THAT THE ACTING UNEF FORCE COMMANDER, BRIGADIER RAIS ABIN, WHO WAS APPARENTLY UNFAMILIAR WITH THE ACCEPTED INTERPRETATION OF THE VAGUE GOE LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 23, 1975, AUTHORIZED BEDOUIN MOVEMENT INTO THE BUFFER ZONE AS FAR SOUTH AS TASA. IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN FROM FINLAND, GENERAL SIILASVUO ORDERED RAIS ABIN TO REVOKE THE AUTHORIZATION AND MOVE ALL BEDOUIN BACK NORTH OF THE HEMINGWAY LINE. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT NOT ALL KNOWN BANDS OF BEDOUIN HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE AREA SOUTH OF THE HEMINGWAY LINE.

D. CONTROL OF BEDOUIN MOVEMENT INTO AND WITHIN THE BUFFER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINAI 01683 111654Z

ZONE IS PROBABLY THE THORNIEST PROBLEM OF THE UNEF. THE GOE IS CONSTANTLY CHALLENGING UNEF'S ATTEMPTS TO EXERCISE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER PEOPLE WHOM IT REGARDS AS EGYPTIAN CITIZENS IN "SOVEREIGN EGYPTIAN TERRITORY" AND SEEKING TO DISPLACE UNEF JURISDICTION OVER BEDOUIN ACTIVITIES. UNEF SOURCES REPORT THAT THE GOE OBJECTS TO MOST UNEF CONTACTS WITH BEDOUINS. NEVERTHELESS, UNEF ATTEMPTS TO HALT ANYONE SEEKING TO CROSS THE J-LINE (MOST OF THE FORMER BEDOUIN

RESIDENTS OF THE BUFFER ZONE WHO DID NOT RETURN LAST WINTER REMAIN IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORY) AND TO ADMIT TO THE BUFFER ZONE ONLY THOSE PERSONS WITH RED BUFFER ZONE ID CARDS AND HEADS OF FAMILIES WITH EGYPTIAN ID CARDS. THE UNEF RECOGNIZES THE ID CARD SITUATION AS DEPLORABLE (MOST BEDOUINS HAVE BOTH PRE-OCCUPATION EGYPTIAN ID CARDS AND MORE RECENT ISRAELI ID CARDS) AND A VERY POOR CRITERION UPON WHICH TO BASE MOVEMENT CONTROL. THE GOE HAS REPORTEDLY STATED ITS INTENTION TO ISSUE NEW ID CARDS TO BEDUOIN RESIDENTS OF THE BUFFER ZONE. ALTHOUGH THE PRINCIPAL AREA OF BEDUOIN ACTIVITIES IN THE BUFFER ZONE AREA HAS BEEN ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN LITTORAL, THERE HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN BEDUOIN HABITATION IN THE GIDDI-MITLA AREA AND IN THE AREA S.W. OF SUEZ CITY AROUND AYUN MOUSA. THERE ARE PRESENTLY CONCENTRATIONS OF BEDUOIN IN THE AREA AT THE JUNCTION OF BUFFER ZONES 1 AND 2A AND THROUGHOUT THE REGION TO THE EAST OF THE K-LINE. IT IS RELATIVELY EASY MATTER FOR BEDUOIN TO INFILTRATE ACROSS THE SOUTHERN PORTIONS OF THE J-LINE, AS THOSE APPREHENDED IN THE EARLY WARNING AREA WITHIN THE PAST TWO WEEKS CLAIM TO HAVE DONE, AND IT CAN BE ANTICIPATED THAT OTHERS WILL DO THE SAME IN THE FUTURE AND REQUIRE REMOVAL FROM THE EARLY WARNING AREA BY UNEF AT THE BEHEST OF SFM.

THORNE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BEDOUINS, BUFFER AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SINAI01683
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760344-0001
From: SINAI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760970/aaaachti.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 218730
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEDOUINS IN THE BUFFER ZONE
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006